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Sustainable development: follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

Draft resolution submitted by the Rapporteur of the Committee, Aida Hodžić (Bosnia and Herzegovina), on the basis of informal consultations on draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.19

Follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the Declaration of Barbados[1] and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[2] the Mauritius Declaration[3] and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[4] and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation),[5] including chapter VII on the sustainable development of small island developing States,

Recalling the outcome document of the high-level review meeting on the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the

[1] *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[2] Ibid., annex II.

[3] *Report of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Port Louis, Mauritius, 10-14 January 2005* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.II.A.4 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[4] Ibid., annex II.

[5] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

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Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States[6] held in New York on 24 and 25 September 2010,

Recalling also its resolution 66/198 of 22 December 2011 and all its previous resolutions on the subject,

Reaffirming the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, entitled "The future we want",[7] including the call for the convening in 2014 of a third international conference on small island developing States and the invitation to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session to determine the modalities of the conference,

Recalling that the Commission on Sustainable Development is the primary intergovernmental forum for monitoring the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy, while recognizing that the institutional framework for sustainable development is currently evolving,

Reaffirming that small island developing States remain a special case for sustainable development in view of their unique and particular vulnerabilities, including their small size, remoteness, narrow resource and export base and exposure to global environmental challenges and external economic shocks, including to a large range of impacts from climate change and potentially more frequent and intense natural disasters, noting with concern that the outcome of the five-year review of the Mauritius Strategy concluded that small island developing States have made less progress than most other groupings, or have even regressed, in economic terms, especially in terms of poverty reduction and debt sustainability and that sea level rise and other adverse impacts of climate change continue to pose a significant risk to small island developing States and their efforts to achieve sustainable development and, for many, represent the gravest of threats to their survival and viability, including for some through loss of territory, and remains concerned that, while small island developing States have made progress in the areas of gender, health, education and the environment, their overall progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals has been uneven,

Recognizing the need to promote the development of regional and national capacities for disaster risk reduction, including by strengthening risk assessments and early warning systems, as well as the reconstruction and rehabilitation of areas affected by natural disasters, including through the further implementation of the internationally agreed framework for disaster risk reduction, the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters,[8]

Taking note of the Leaders' Declaration adopted at the meeting of the Heads of State and Government of the Alliance of Small Island States, held in New York on 27 September 2012,

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General on the five-year review of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of

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[6] See resolution 65/2.

[7] Resolution 66/288, annex.

[8] A/CONF.206/6 and Corr.1, chap. I, resolution 2.

Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[9] the review of United Nations system support to small island developing States[10] and the concrete recommendations to enhance the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;[11]

2. *Reaffirms* the commitment to take urgent and concrete action to address the vulnerability of small island developing States, including through the sustained implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy, and underscores the urgency of finding additional solutions to the major challenges facing small island developing States in a concerted manner so as to support them in sustaining the momentum realized in implementing the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy and achieving sustainable development;

3. *Reaffirms* the decision to convene in 2014 the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States as called for in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, to build on the Barbados Programme of Action, the Mauritius Strategy and chapter VII of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation regarding small island developing States, recognizing the importance of coordinated, balanced and integrated actions to address the sustainable development challenges facing small island developing States;

4. *Welcomes* the offer of the Government of Samoa to host the International Conference on Small Island Developing States in 2014;

5. *Decides* that the Conference should:

(a) Assess the progress to date and the remaining gaps in the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy, building on, inter alia, existing reports and relevant processes;

(b) Seek a renewed political commitment by all countries to address effectively the special needs and vulnerabilities of small island developing States by focusing on practical and pragmatic actions for the further implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action and Mauritius Strategy, inter alia, through mobilization of resources and assistance for small island developing States;

(c) Identify new and emerging challenges and opportunities for the sustainable development of small island developing States and ways and means to address them, including through the strengthening of collaborative partnerships between small island developing States and the international community;

(d) Identify priorities for the sustainable development of small island developing States for consideration, as appropriate, in the elaboration of the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015;

6. *Acknowledges* that small island developing States have demonstrated their commitment to promoting sustainable development and, to that effect, have mobilized resources at the national and regional levels despite their limited resource base, and welcomes the long-standing cooperation and support provided by the

[9] A/65/115.
[10] A/66/218.
[11] A/66/278.

international community, which has played an important role in helping small island developing States to make progress in addressing their vulnerabilities and in supporting their sustainable development efforts;

7. *Calls for* continued and enhanced efforts to assist small island developing States in implementing the Barbados Programme of Action and Mauritius Strategy and for strengthening the United Nations system support to small island developing States in keeping with the multiple ongoing and emerging challenges faced by these States in achieving sustainable development;

8. *Stresses* the importance of continued substantive consideration of the follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy;

9. *Decides* to convene in 2013 a regional preparatory meeting in each of the three regions of small island developing States,[12] as well as an interregional preparatory meeting for all small island developing States, to identify and develop input for the Conference, while maximizing coherence and complementarity with respect to other preparatory work;

10. *Also decides* that the Conference will result in a concise, focused, forward-looking and action-oriented political document;

11. *Further decides* that the national, regional, interregional and substantive preparations should be carried out in a most effective, well-structured and broad participatory manner and that, for this purpose, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, through its Small Island Developing States Unit, the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States and the relevant agencies of the United Nations system, including the regional commissions, within their respective mandates and available resources, should provide the necessary support to the Conference and its preparatory process;

12. *Invites* the President of the General Assembly to launch the work of the intergovernmental preparatory process at the end of 2013 to consider the governance structure as well as other organizational matters related to the preparatory committee, and to convene the first meeting of the preparatory committee early in 2014;

13. *Decides* to consider further at its sixty-eighth session, before the end of 2013, the modalities and format of the Conference and how it can be organized in the most efficient and effective manner;

14. *Agrees* that the Conference will be convened at the highest possible level and will include a high-level segment;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide all appropriate support to the work of the preparatory process of the Conference and to the Conference itself and to ensure interagency cooperation and effective participation and coherence within the United Nations system, as well as the efficient use of resources, so that the objectives of the Conference can be addressed;

16. *Decides* that the Conference and its preparatory committee shall be open to all States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency, that the rules of procedure of

[12] Atlantic, Indian Ocean and South China Sea; Caribbean; and Pacific.

the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, as well as the supplementary arrangements established for the Commission on Sustainable Development by the Council in its decisions 1993/215 of 12 February 1993 and 1995/201 of 8 February 1995, shall apply to the meetings of the preparatory committee, and that the preparatory committee shall consider and adopt the provisional rules of procedure of the Conference taking into consideration the established practice of the General Assembly and its conferences;

17. *Invites* relevant stakeholders, including organizations and bodies of the United Nations, international financial institutions and major groups identified in Agenda 21[13] to participate as observers in the Conference and the meetings of the preparatory committee;

18. *Calls for* the participation of associate members of the regional commissions in the Conference and the meetings of the preparatory committee, in the same capacity specified for their participation in the global conferences on the sustainable development of small island developing States held in 1994 and 2005;

19. *Calls on* the Secretary-General to appoint a Secretary-General for the Conference at the earliest possible time;

20. *Urges* international and bilateral donors as well as the private sector, financial institutions, foundations and other donors in a position to do so, to support the preparations for the Conference through voluntary contributions to the trust fund in support of preparations for the Conference and to support the participation of representatives of developing countries, with priority given to small island developing States, including coverage of economy class air tickets, daily subsistence allowances and terminal expenses, and invites voluntary contributions to support the participation of developing countries in the regional and international preparatory processes and the Conference itself;

21. *Stresses* the need for the effective participation of civil society, in particular non-governmental organizations and other major groups, and invites voluntary contributions to support the participation of major groups of developing countries, in particular small island developing States, in the regional and international preparatory processes and the Conference itself;

22. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-eighth session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States";

23. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

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[13] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.